

December 22, 1989

PRESS RELEASE

MUSEUM TO SCREEN TEN FILMS BY LITTLE-KNOWN JAPANESE MASTER HEINOSUKE GOSHO IN FIRST-EVER AMERICAN GOSHO RETROSPECTIVE

Heinosuke Gosho, a great Japanese film director still little-known outside of his native country, is the focus of The Cleveland Museum of Art's January film series "Discovering Heinosuke Gosho." Ten English-subtitled films by this neglected master will be shown on Wednesday evenings at 7:45 p.m. and Sunday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. throughout the month. Admission to all movies is free.

Gosho (1902-1981) directed 99 films in a career that spanned five decades and encompassed both the silent and sound eras. Although his movies range from comedy to melodrama to period pieces, and include Japan's first "talkie" (**The Neighbor's Wife and Mine**), his best films are shomin-geki, slice-of-life dramas focusing on lives of common people of little means. Dr. Arthur Nolletti, Jr., the foremost American expert on Gosho, has written: "To these shomin-geki dramas, he brought his particular style of lyricism, the mixture of humor and pathos that makes one want to laugh and cry at the same time--a style that has come to be known as 'Goshoism.'"

The ten films comprising the Museum's Gosho season have been selected from a larger Gosho retrospective running concurrently in New York City and organized by the Japan Society and The Museum of Modern Art. In addition to Cleveland, films from the series will travel to Chicago, Berkeley, and Honolulu during 1990.

Wednesday, January 3, 7:45 pm

Where Chimneys Are Seen, 1953. With Kinuyo Tanaka, Ken Uehara, and Hideko Takamine. B&W. Subtitles. 108 min. Acclaimed portrait of a lower middle class married couple (and their two tenants) living in an industrialized section of Tokyo.

Sunday, January 7, 3:30 pm

The Neighbor's Wife and Mine, 1931. With Atsushi Watanabe and Kinuyo Tanaka. B&W. Subtitles. 57 min. This comedy about a young married writer distracted by his "modern" next-door neighbor was Japan's first sound film.

Burden of Life, 1935. With Tatsuo Saito and Kinuyo Tanaka. B&W. Subtitles. 66 min. Bittersweet family drama about a father who resents his young son after all his other children have left home.

Wednesday, January 10, 7:45 pm

Dancing Girl of Izu, 1933. With Kinuyo Tanaka. B&W. Silent. Subtitles. 93 min. Scenic tale, set at mountain resorts, about the romance between a college student and a travelling dancer.

Sunday, January 14, 3:30 pm

Dispersing Clouds, 1951. With Keiko Sawamura. B&W. Subtitles. 110 min. A self-centered young woman has a change of heart during her stay in a convalescent home.

Wednesday, January 17, 7:45 pm

Woman of the Mist, 1936. With Choko Iida. B&W. Subtitles. 108 min. Sensitive depiction of the romance between a law student and a Tokyo barmaid.

Sunday, January 21, 3:30 pm

An Inn at Osaka, 1954. With Shuji Sano. Subtitles. 121 min. Slice-of-life portrait of the guests and employees at a cheap hotel in one of Japan's commercial centers.

Wednesday, January 24, 7:45 pm

The Yellow Crow, 1957. With Chikage Awashima. Color. Subtitles. 104 min. Poignant, award-winning account of a young boy neglected by his preoccupied parents.

Sunday, January 28, 3:30 pm

An Innocent Witch, 1965. With Jitsuko Yoshimura. B&W. Subtitles. 98 min. Dark chronicle, set in feudal times, about a poor prostitute's involvement with a greedy merchant.

Wednesday, January 31, 7:45 pm

Growing Up, 1955. With Hibari Misora. B&W. Subtitles. 95 min. Meiji-period tragedy about a young girl's growing awareness of her life's grim destiny.

Acknowledgements: Kawakita Memorial Film Institute; Japan Society, New York; The Japan Foundation; Shochiku Films of America; Pacific Film Archive.